

A Brief History of Virtual Desktops

When virtual desktops first burst onto the scene, it was a revolutionary time for the tech industry: consumer internet was on the rise, business and personal computing was beginning to take shape, and more users were relying on technology in their daily lives. However, as capabilities evolved, unforeseen risks emerged and user demand surged, it became clear that virtual desktops were unable to keep up with the changing tide. Legacy VDI has always been unable to balance productivity, protection and privacy, and typically leaves users feeling frustrated and seeking out workarounds that ultimately puts their data at risk.

Luckily, the future is now. The 2020s have brought a truly fast, flexible and familiar alternative that empowers users with a local experience. How did we get here? Here's a closer look at the rise and fall of VDI, and the exciting shift taking place from legacy VDI to LocalZone™.



VIRTUAL DESKTOP INFRASTRUCTURE (VDI): is a desktop virtualization technology wherein a desktop operating system, typically Microsoft Windows, runs and is managed in a data center.

DESKTOP AS A SERVICE (DAAS): is a cloud computing offering in which a third party hosts the back end of a virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) deployment.

The 1990s

Windows Virtual Desktop technology is first introduced to the market through Citrix's WinFrame product. Microsoft gets into the game through a licensing agreement with Citrix that leads to the first version of Terminal Services in 1998. These technologies were primarily developed and positioned as remote access solutions to solve application issues due to bandwidth limitations.

 **The latest in consumer tech:** in-home dial-up internet

The 2000s

Terminal Services and Citrix MetaFrame experience tremendous growth. VMware enters the market in 2004 with Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI), a game-changing architecture that gives each user their own dedicated virtual desktop environment. The space and solutions evolve to address application security and compliance in addition to improved remote access.

 **The latest in consumer tech:** mobile flip-phones

The 2010s

Security-minded sectors like Financial Services, Legal and Healthcare make wholesale moves to a thin client architecture to meet increasingly stringent regulatory compliance and growing cybersecurity concerns. The market begins to mature, and deployments slow as solution limitations – like performance and compatibility - become blockers for widespread adoption.

 **The latest in consumer tech:** the iPad tablet

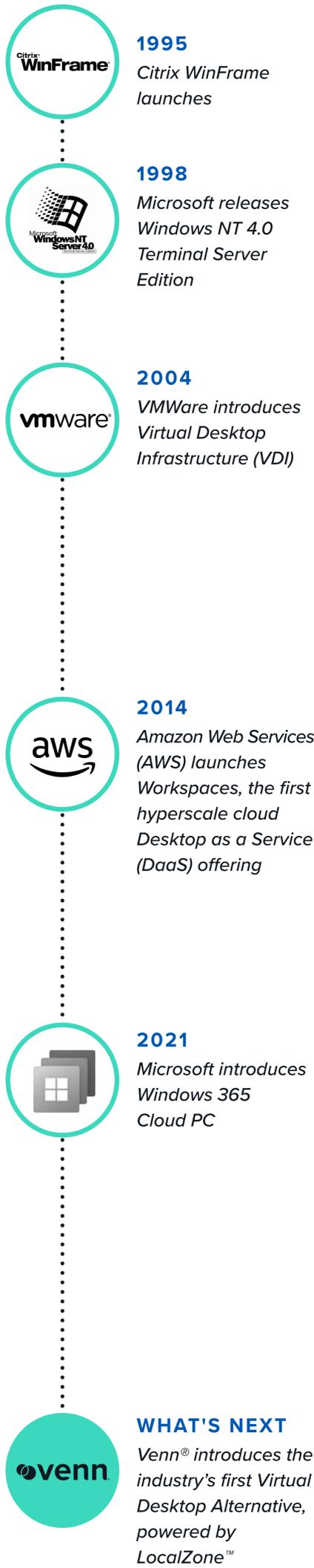
The 2020s

Desktop as a Service (DaaS) hits its stride with all the hyperscale providers (AWS, Google and Microsoft) offering solutions directly (AWS Workspace, Microsoft Azure Virtual Desktop, Windows 365 Cloud PC) and through partners. Still, there is growing end-user backlash due to performance, compatibility, and related user experience issues. MSPs and IT professionals also struggle with the cost and complexity of deployments, licensing and solution relevance in the face of changing application architectures (e.g., browser-based, mobile, etc.).

 **The latest in consumer tech:** widespread adoption of web-based video conferencing

The Future is Now

Recognizing the need for a fast, familiar and flexible LOCAL experience that delivers the perfect balance of productivity, protection and privacy for the modern worker, Venn® launches the industry's first Virtual Desktop Alternative, powered by LocalZone™.



1995 Citrix WinFrame launches

1998 Microsoft releases Windows NT 4.0 Terminal Server Edition

2004 VMware introduces Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)

2014 Amazon Web Services (AWS) launches Workspaces, the first hyperscale cloud Desktop as a Service (DaaS) offering

2021 Microsoft introduces Windows 365 Cloud PC

WHAT'S NEXT Venn® introduces the industry's first Virtual Desktop Alternative, powered by LocalZone™

Are you ready to make the shift from legacy VDI to LocalZone™?

Book a demo with our experts and experience Venn's game-changing technology.

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